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P800 036-0473

MARCH 7 1980

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E-161

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, reiterating your deep interest in the case of the missing Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg.

Following discussions on this subject in Vienna, and as reported to you in my letter of December 14, 1979, the Department raised this matter with the Soviet Embassy twice more -- in July and in October, 1979 -- seeking further clarification on Wallenberg's fate. We pressed the Soviets again in December for a full and adequate response. Regrettably, the Soviets failed to respond to our requests until one week ago -- on February 29 -- when they formally and in writing reaffirmed their claim that Wallenberg had died in the USSR during July, 1947. The Soviets also stated that they had informed the Swedish Government directly of their latest findings and suggested that they would have no further information on this matter in the future.

Given the current worsened state of our relations with the Soviet Union and the tone of the February 29 reply, we do not believe that the Soviets would be responsive to further inquiries about Raoul Wallenberg.

Incidentally, you will be interested to know that extensive interviews were conducted with each of five prominent Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in New York City last April 27 on the possibility that Wallenberg was still alive in Soviet prison camps. None of the five ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to such rumors.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Carl Levin,
United States Senate.

Drafted: EUR/SOV: JVD/one/RWFarrand:rca
3/6/80 Ext. 22071 Log #30-0299
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